Northwest Territories Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

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Premier Leads Talks on Northern Strategy and Labour Market Shortages at the 2005 Western Premiers' Conference - 2/5/2005

Premier Joe Handley will lead discussions with Canada's western Premiers on the Northern Strategy and on the shortages in labour market skills in western and northern Canada.

"Western Premiers have been very supportive of the shared goals of the three territories for greater self-sufficiency and economic prosperity," stated Premier Handley. "The Western Premiers' Conference offers an opportunity to provide Premiers with an update on Northern Strategy activities and highlight emerging priorities resulting from consultations with Northerners."

The Premier will also lead discussions on anticipated skill shortages in the west and north over the next decade. The focus will be on strategies that will support labour market development.

"The North, and particularly the Northwest Territories is in the midst of remarkable development which has created unprecedented employment opportunities and challenges," said Premier Handley. "I look forward to discussing how we can work together to better meet the labour force needs of western and northern Canada both now and over the coming years."

The Western Premiers Conference takes place annually and brings together Premiers from Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. This year's conference is hosted and chaired by Alberta and will take place from May 4-6 in Lloydminster, Alberta. The Northwest Territories hosted and chaired last year's Western Premiers' Conference in Inuvik. Details on this year's conference, including media accreditation information, are available from:

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